

SPARKS

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Tri-State for over 70 years



JANUARY 2019 - Issue No. 1

TARS Website: <http://www.w9og.net> Club repeaters: 146.79 and 147.15

Say "Hello" at the weekly Tri-State Emergency Net, 8:00pm Wednesdays on 146.79

Please feel to submit articles or suggestions to

Editor: SPARKS@w9og.net



President's Corner:

Happy 2019 to you all. I hope your Christmas and New Years holidays were great. Now its 2019 which is going to be another exciting year.

But before we look forward, I want to take a few lines to reflect on the past couple of years. First of all, to Dave Sandine KC9UVG we all owe a huge 'thank you'. The club has accomplished some exciting things and Dave and the whole Board of Directors did a great job planning and executing some great events. Was Hamtoberfest a fabulous hamfest or what?! And what about Field Day 2018, Indiana QSO party, some great meetings and events, etc. And it appears to me that membership and excitement about the club is rising. Thanks Dave and the board for a great 2018!

As I begin my term as TARS President, I hope to do my part in keeping that train rolling. But the bigger part of that equation is a fabulous board of directors and club officers. Please support those folks, provide them with ideas and feedback, and of course let's get excited about some great ham radio events being planned this year. The board and officers can't do it all- it takes your help too.

First on the agenda for 2019- the yearly club auction! This is always a fun exciting event, and some folks walk away with great deals on gear and trinkets. Plan on coming to the auction at our January meeting. Come early so you have plenty of time to spy that fabulous item you will bid on. Then in February is our annual banquet on February 7. Now that's kicking the year off right. More info on those and other coming events later in this issue of Sparks.

And speaking of Sparks- Chris KE9YK does a fabulous job creating and editing this newsletter. If you haven't done so, let him know how much it is appreciated.

See you at the Auction!!

John Van Vorst, N9oL

Beyond the Baofeng

I have noticed an increase in repeater kurchunkers over the last few years. I am not quite sure why or how anyone gets any satisfaction from continuously kurchunking the area repeaters day in and day out. At first I attributed some of it to the proliferation of cheap Chinese radios, and a number of unlicensed people using them on FRS and GMRS that had also programmed in the local 2m repeaters. I find it annoying yet interesting hearing someone go down the list and key up repeater after repeater in the area in the morning and sometime in the afternoon.

Just a couple of reminders. When checking your swr or tuning an antenna, do not use repeater frequencies. When you key up, it always is a good idea to ID yourself and let everyone know you are testing.

While we are on the subject a reminder of simple repeater etiquette might be in order.

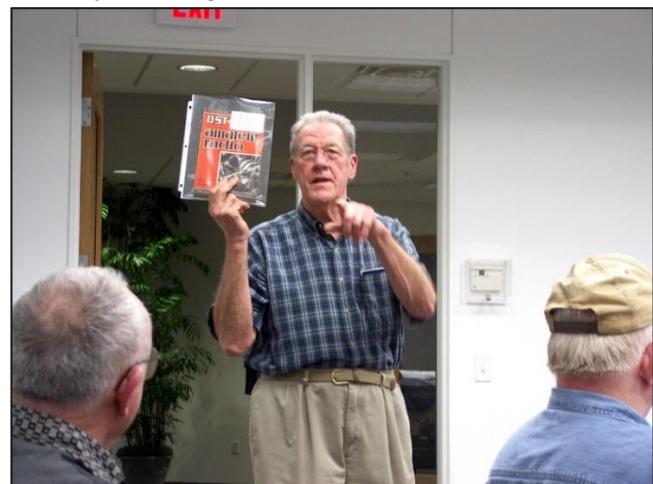
- Transmit your call sign when you first come on the air. Make sure you ID once every 10 minutes, but there is no need to identify too often or use the phrase "For ID". When signing off/changing freq you are required by the FCC to give your call sign.
- A good reminder of when to ID is when you hear the repeater ID.
- Even 'mild' obscenities are not good operating practice. This includes suggestive phrases or suggestive phonetics.
- Avoid the use of phrases learned on 11 meters such as "handle", "making the trip", "got a good copy on me?", "the personal here is...", "what's your 20?", "you're giving me 20-pounds", and other strange phrases. Speak plain English and remember that there may be many people monitoring.
- Don't start speaking as you key the mic. Repeaters have a short delay before they start transmitting and remote receivers add to the delay. If you start speaking too soon your first few words will be lost. Also make sure you have finished talking before you unkey and **ALWAYS GIVE YOUR CALL SIGN CLEARLY, AND SLOWLY.**
- When you are using the repeater leave a couple of seconds between exchanges to allow other stations to join in or make a quick call. Most repeaters have a "Courtesy Tone" (a short...beep or series of beeps) that will help in determining how long to pause. The courtesy tone serves two purposes. Repeaters have a time out function that will shut down the transmitter if the repeater is held on for a preset length of time (normally three or four minutes). If you key up too quickly the

timeout timer will not reset and your transmission may be cut off.

- **Don't call CQ** to initiate a conversation on a repeater. Just simply listen to make certain the repeater is not in use and then key your mic and say your call sign and "listening". If someone happens to be listening and they want to talk to you they will respond.
- Don't break into a contact unless you have something significant to add. Interrupting is no more polite on the air than it is in person.

AUCTION TIME

January meeting is the annual club AUCTION!!



Little ED K9HVI will once again be the master of ceremonies / Auctioneer. Now is the time to clean off your station desk and closet of those things cluttering your space. Those old antennas in the rafters of your garage, someone can put them to good use. That half-finished project you lost interest in might be just the thing someone is looking for. Bring them in and sell them at the Club Auction for just a small percentage of the sale price or if you want to donate the sale to TARS it would be greatly appreciated.



Silent Keys

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart to report more silent keys this month.

Steven Wells KC9SOE



Steven was a long time club member, had served on the TARS board. Steven had actively participated in club activities over the years. We haven't received any obituary information.

Adam Groupe KB9SXK



Adam had been an active member and supporter of TARS, and while working as the Deputy Director of Evansville Vanderburgh Co EMA avidly promoted the use of amateur radio in general and its use for emergency communication.

Adam had served on the TARS board and participated in many club activities over the years.

Most recently Adam had resided in Indianapolis where he passed away on December 28, 2018.

Obituary information can be found at -

<https://flannerbuchanan.com/obit/adam-craig-groupe/>

From FACEBOOK

Posted by Ron Dodson KA4MAP

to Kentucky ARES Discussion Group

For my amateur radio friends. 38 years ago this morning I awoke to the news of John Lennon's murder on TV. Having turned in early, I missed this on the 11pm news. I didn't really have much time to dwell on this at the moment as I was preparing to go to the Federal Building in Louisville for my appointment to take the amateur radio examinations required then for a General Class license. Upon arrival downtown, I was really surprised at how seriously the Chicago office of the FCC officials who gave the exams in those days took the testing. I had to remove my shoes which were inspected for any possible notes that might have been written on them. I was asked to turn all of my pockets inside out. My arms and legs were also checked to see if I had written any notes on my skin. I was even asked to show the calculator I would

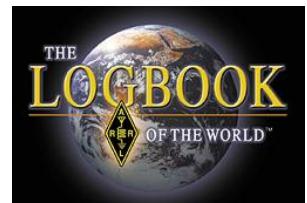
be using on the scientific functions required to pass the written exam. Since my calculator was put together with screws and there were no battery compartments accessible, I was granted access to the examination area. Those who had battery compartments, had to open them and remove the batteries to display that there were no notes hidden inside. Once in the testing area I was taken to the Morse Code part of the exam when I would be required to receive and correctly pass an examination on 13 words per minute reception. You could either pass the written examination on the message content or you could display one continuous minute of error free copy of the coded message. To accomplish this I was giving a set of headphones which I equate to tuna cans and coat hangers. Very uncomfortable! Once I passed this I was allowed to go to the written exam area and take the exam on rules and regulations, technical theory, and other concerns for operating in the band portions allowed to the General Class. Within a few hours I walked out of the examination with a successful completion of exam certificate in my pocket. In January, I would finally receive my much sought-after General Class license. Nine months later, I would return for my Advanced Class license.

If this sounds shocking to those who have taken Amateur Radio exams for the license classes in modern times, it should. Modern examiners are not employees of the Federal Communications Commission as they were in those days. Your fellow amateur radio operators now serve as volunteer examiners in conducting the exams. You also only have to take a written exam now as the Morse code portion of testing was done away with at the turn of the century. Times have definitely changed. 73 all and a Merry Christmas!

ARRL's Logbook of The World Tops 1 Billion QSO Records

The ARRL Letter for December 20, 2018

As of December 19, more than 1 billion contact records have been entered into ARRL's [Logbook of The World](#) (LoTW) system. And, while 1 billion QSO records represents a significant milestone, a more important statistic may be the nearly 187 million contacts *confirmed* via LoTW over its 15-year history.



The one billionth record was uploaded by 7X3WPL, the Sahara DX Radio Club, at 23:32 UTC for a 20-meter SSB contact with Davide Cler, IW1DQS, that took place on December 28, 2016. The upload resulted in a match (QSL).

February Meeting

Annual Banquet FEB 7th, Log Inn 6:00 pm

NOTE: NOT THE REGULAR MEETING DATE

The February TARS meeting will be held at the Log Inn again this year for our annual banquet.

The **meeting will start at 6:00 pm** and will be a week earlier than usual because the regular date falls on Valentine's Day.

The meal will include the Log Inn regular family style dinner and drink.

Reservations for fully paid 2019 Regular TARS MEMBERS are \$13.00 ea. for member and Spouse/Guest.

To attend, TARS membership and banquet reservations must be paid no later than the board meeting, January 31st.

You may pay at the January 10th TARS meeting, the January 31st [FEB] board meeting or mail your payments to the TARS PO Box, to be received BEFORE January 31st.

TARS mailing address:

TARS
P.O. Box 4521
Evansville, IN 47724



Winter Field Day 2019

January 26th, Wesselman Park
10:00 am set up and contest start at 1pm (1900 UTC).

Station captains

1. Mike KD9LWC - Voice
2. Jeff - AA9WJ - CW
3. Jerry WB9ONU - Digital



Chris KE9YK will have bean soup and cornbread at NOON. You are welcome to bring any side dish to share for lunch and deserts are always welcome.

Most importantly, come out and enjoy the FUN!



Make ham radio a habit

By [Dan Romanchik, KB6NU](#)

Every week, I get an email newsletter from Penguin Random House called *Signature*. *Signature* includes links to articles about books and writing. Being a writer, I clicked on the link to "5 Good Writing Habits You Need to Learn Now." As I was reading the article, it occurred to me that the advice could also apply to amateur radio.

So, with apologies to the author, Lorraine Berry, here are five things you can do to make ham radio a habit:

1. **To get on the air more, or to do more building, set up a time to do it.** If you enjoy getting on the air or homebrewing, but never seem to be able to find the time to do it, you need to put it on your schedule. Set aside the time a couple of days, or a week, or even a month in advance, and you'll be more likely to do it. If you set up a regular time every week, pretty soon it will be a habit.
2. **If ham radio is important to you, create an environment that encourages you to do ham radio.** To make ham radio a habit, you really need a place that's set up to do ham

radio. If you have to dig out and set up your equipment every time that you want to get on the air, you're just not going to do it. You need a "shack" that makes it easier for you to engage in the hobby. Richards, K8JHR, gave me some great advice back in 2012 on where and how to set up a shack (<https://www.kb6nu.com/building-a-new-shack/>).

3. **Create temptations that reward you for your new habit of ham radio.** For me, being able to make interesting contacts, or building some new gizmo, is reward enough, but you may want to reward yourself with a beer or some ice cream after an operating session.
4. **Make it easy to do what you like to do.** This is related to #4. Your shack should have everything you need to easily do whatever ham radio activities you enjoy doing. If you enjoy operating, then it should have a nice operating desk. If you enjoy building, then set it up so that all of your tools are readily accessible. The easier it is to do, the more likely it is that you'll do it. If you enjoy operating portable, then build up a kit that has all the stuff you need, and have it ready to go when you're ready to go.
5. **Start with the Two-Minute Rule for new habits and continue from there.** The "two minute rule" (<https://www.lifehack.org/articles/productivity/how-stop-procrastinating-and-stick-good-habits-using-the-2-minute-rule.html>) is a tool to help you overcome procrastination. The idea is to allot just two minutes to a task that you'd like to complete or a skill that you'd like to develop. It's a small commitment, but enough to get you started, and the idea is that once you're started on a particular task or project, continuing work on that task or project becomes a lot easier. Those two minutes could easily become a half hour or an hour once you've gotten the ball rolling.

Armed with this advice, I'm expecting you to be a more active ham in 2019.
I'll be listening for you on 40 m.

Eat'n Before the Meet'n



January 10th Eating Before the Meeting will be at Fazio's at 899 North Green River Rd in Evansville.



Drop by for good food, socializing, "story tell'n" and whatever else comes to mind.

Join the group at 5:30, or whenever you can make it. Check in on 146.79 if you need directions or just get bored on your drive in.
Everyone is welcome to join us.

Note: We will probably be leaving a little earlier than normal, to head to the meeting and view the auction items before the meeting gets started.

If you have any suggestions on where you would like for us to meet, contact: [Herb Alvey KB9MZH](#) c: 812.431.1037

Brag Rag

Congratulations to John N9OL on his latest wallpaper. John has worked 30 unique POTA activations.



Vanderburgh Co. ARES/RACES

The next Vanderburgh county ARES/RACES meeting January 17th, 7:00 pm at the Vand Co. West side EMA Training Center (WEMA) [1430 Harmony Way.](https://www.wema.org)



The meeting program will be on message handling and projects for 2019.

Anyone interested in emergency communication in Vanderburgh County is invited.

Chris Lantaff KE9YK
Vanderburgh Co RACES Officer
in82races@gmail.com c: 812.453.1972

WARRICK COUNTY ARES/RACES

December 2018 Update

Meeting:

The meeting for the month of December was held at Archie and Clyde's to finish out the year. It was a great opportunity for the ARES-RACES group members to exchange stories and enjoy the fellowship among fellow Amateur Radio enthusiast. Discussion of events in 2018 and projects for 2019 in an informal platform was the itinerary for the evening.

Trailer Recap:

A list has been put together of items still needing to be addressed on the Auxcom Trailer.

NMO Brackets need to be moved

Need to get the PL259 connectors installed on the cable ends.

Cat 5 cables need to be landed in panel.

Need to identify if the AC unit has the optional heat strip.

Lights moved to separate Power Supply

Anyone wishing to help with the work will need to contact Steve Connaughton (K9SRC) at sconnaug@gmail.com to make arrangements to have the trailer unlocked.

The next planned event for an activation of the trailer will be Winter Field Day. (January 26th) Everyone is invited to come out and see the progress that has taken place with the trailer.

Simulated Emergency Test:

On November 17, 2018 the Warrick ARES-RACES group held a Simulated Emergency Test. This test utilized information from the prior months meeting "Go Kits". Each of the participants were dispatched to different areas. (Schools and Newburgh Plaza) The main goal of the test wasn't to establish communications but to

determine if each was equipped and prepared to provide support. Several members were to determine what would be required to provide some type of shelter at their location and the other was to provide a relay station. The outcome of each scenario will be discussed during the January meeting.

Winter Field Day 2019:

The Warrick County ARES-RACES group will be participating with the Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club again during the 2019 Winter Field Day. This event will be held on January 26th. A recommendation was made and approved to hold the event at the ALCOA clubhouse. The Warrick County ARES-RACES group will be locating the Auxcom trailer at the clubhouse for utilization during the event. With the clubhouse having a kitchen, discussion has taken place regarding food being brought in by a few of the XYLs. I don't think there are any negatives concerning this plan. Looking forward to a good time during the event.

Amateur Radio Classes:

The Ohio Valley Amateur Radio Club will be offering classes for Technician through General level testing beginning on January 8, 2019. Anyone interested should contact Mike Koester at KA9VKO@ohiovalleyarc.org

Chris L Owen (KC9CLO)
Public Information Officer
Warrick County ARES/RACES group
KC9CLO@gmail.com
812.217.0282



Tri-State Emergency Net

8:00 p.m. Wednesday nights on 146.79 pl 88.5

If you haven't checked into the Tri-State Emergency Net, please take a few minutes at 8:00 p.m. Wednesday evenings on 146.79 and get updated on what is happening, the latest club information, calendar of upcoming events, topics of general interest and from time to time good old-fashioned rag chewing.

Net Operator schedule

January

2	WB9KQF
9	KC9TYA
16	KE9YK
23	KC9UVG
30	N9QVQ

February

6	KB9YWQ
13	WB9KQF
20	KC9TYA
27	KE9YK

LOCAL AREA NETS

Frequency	tone	Location	Time
146.790	88.5	Evansville, IN	8:00 pm wed
146.835	136.5	Evansville, IN	8:00 pm tue
444.500	167.9	Evansville, IN	7:00 pm tue
146.910	107.2	Spencer, IN	7:15 pm mon
145.290	77.0	Uniontown, KY	8:30 pm sun
145.450	none	Petersburg, IN	7:00 pm mon
145.410	136.5	Princeton, IN	8:30 pm wed
146.550	simplex	Owensboro, KY	9:00 pm thu
145.330	103.5	Owensboro, KY	8:30 pm thu
145.150	136.5	Ft. Branch, IN	8:00 pm tue
146.880	88.5	Herod, IL	8:00 pm sun
146.880	88.5	Herod, IL	8:00 pm sat
146.850	88.5	Alto Pass, IL	7:30 am sat
146.940	94.8	Mt. Carmel, IL	9:15 pm tue
146.970	none	Henderson, KY	8:30 pm mon
147.075	88.5	Boonville, IN	8:00 pm sun
147.075	88.5	Boonville, IN	7:30 pm tue
147.195	107.2	Jasper, IN	7:00 pm thu
146.940	114.8	Glassglow, KY	7:00 pm tu/th
147.315	107.2	Washington, IN	7:00 pm thu
443.225	107.2	Washington, IN	7:00 pm thu

All times are Evansville local time
Compiled by Don KB9YWQ



Remember to monitor the weather net on the TARS 146.79 repeater anytime there is a severe weather watch/warning issued from the Paducah NWS for Vanderburgh or surrounding counties.

Anytime severe weather is anticipated we try to have a stand-by net up and once a warning or severe weather is reported we go into a SKYWARN net and relay weather reports to the NWS in Paducah.

It won't be long and the NWS will be holding SKYWARN training in preparation for the springtime thunderstorms/tornados.

For information on SKYWARN training go to:
<https://www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining>

VE Testing

2019 Schedule

Jan 26
Feb 23
Apr 27
May 25
Jun 29
Jul 27
Aug 31
Sep 28
Oct 26
Dec 28



All examinations will be administered at the American Red Cross, Evansville Chapter, located at 29 S. Stockwell Road, Evansville Indiana 47714. Examinations will start at 9:00 AM Central time. No pre-registration, examinations are administered on a walk-in basis.

All the details can be found at:
<http://w9og.net/ve-testing>

For more info contact:
[John VanVorst N9OL](#) c: 812.305.4100



New Club Contest COMING!

Homebrew Club Code Key Contest.

Judging will happen in the time between the meeting program and the business meeting. The contest is a just for fun event and may have certificates awarded for various categories.

Starting in March with **STRAIGHT KEY** competition.



The rules are pretty simple.

- You must have built the key YOURSELF.
- It may be a KIT or Homebrewed.
- It must WORK.

The preliminary schedule right now is.

March - Straight Key

May - Paddle Key

July - Bug or Cootie Key

September - MacGyver Key

Even if you don't work CW, this can be a fun contest just to get everyone up and doing something.

Perhaps we can even get a local cw learning net on the air and put them to use.

More information will come.

January Birthdays

Raymond Edge	W9KHP	17th
Kelli Land	KD9COS	8th
Betty Lantaff	KC9VDA	27th
Charlie Martin	WB8LDV	28th
Dave (Jerry) Purcell	KC9ZAR	15th
Leonard Schmitt	N9QVQ	12th
Brian Walker	KC4FIE	19th
Max Wilkinson	KD9ABT	1st
Steve Wilzbacher	K4SAW	17th

If your birthday doesn't get listed please make sure we have it on file by filling out the membership application when renewing.

This also helps to make sure we have your current contact information.

Treasurer Report

November 2018 (prepared 12/1/2018)

Opening Balance: \$4,112.70

Receipts:

T-shirt refund round-off	\$2.00
Lynnville deposit refund	\$150.00
Total Receipts ---	\$152.00

Expenditures:

Indiana Farmer's Mutual Liability insurance	(\$454.00)
Total Expenditures--->	(\$454.00)

Ending Balance \$3,810.70

Red Cross fund \$1,010.82

Your input is important.

Sparks is YOUR information source for club activities and local Amateur radio information.

In each issue we ask for submissions from club members. Tell us about your station, projects you have made or are making, anything interesting the TARS membership might be interested in.

Submission deadline is the 25th of the month.

Most any document format is acceptable.

Photos or graphics of your subject are welcome.

Send your article to: sparks@w9og.net

Looking Ahead

2019

Straight Key Night Jan 1

ARRL Kids Day Jan 5

Winter Field Day January 26/27

TARS Banquet Feb 7

INQP May 4th Harmonie State Park

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND June

ARRL Kids Day June

Field Day June 22-23 2019

13 Colonies Special Event Jul 1-Jul 8, 1300Z-0400Z

National Night Out Aug 6

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend (ILLW) Third full weekend of August 16-17

Route 66 Special Event September 7-15

Jamboree-on-the-Air Third full weekend in October

SKYWARN Recognition Day Dec 7 2019

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TARS is an [ARRL](#) affiliated club

ARRL [Indiana Section](#)

Section Manager: Jimmy Merry KC9RPX
kc9rpx@arrl.net



TARS mailing address:

TARS
P.O. Box 4521
Evansville, IN 47724

Don't forget to check out our web page

www.w9og.net

Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TARSw9og>

TARS E-mail: info@w9og.net

2019 Club Officers and Board members

President [John VanVorst N9OL](#)

Vice President [Max Wilkinson KD9ABT](#)

Treasurer [Jeff Holt AA9WJ](#)

Secretary [Dave Sandine KC9UVG](#)

Board of Directors

[Mark Thienes KC9TYA](#) (2018-2019)

[Len Schmitt N9QVQ](#) (2018-2019)

[Herb Alvey KB9MZB](#) (2019)

[Rick Jackson K9EXY](#) (2019-2020)

[Dennis Martin WA2USA](#) (2019-2020)

[Mike Townsend W9KXP](#) (2019-2020)

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